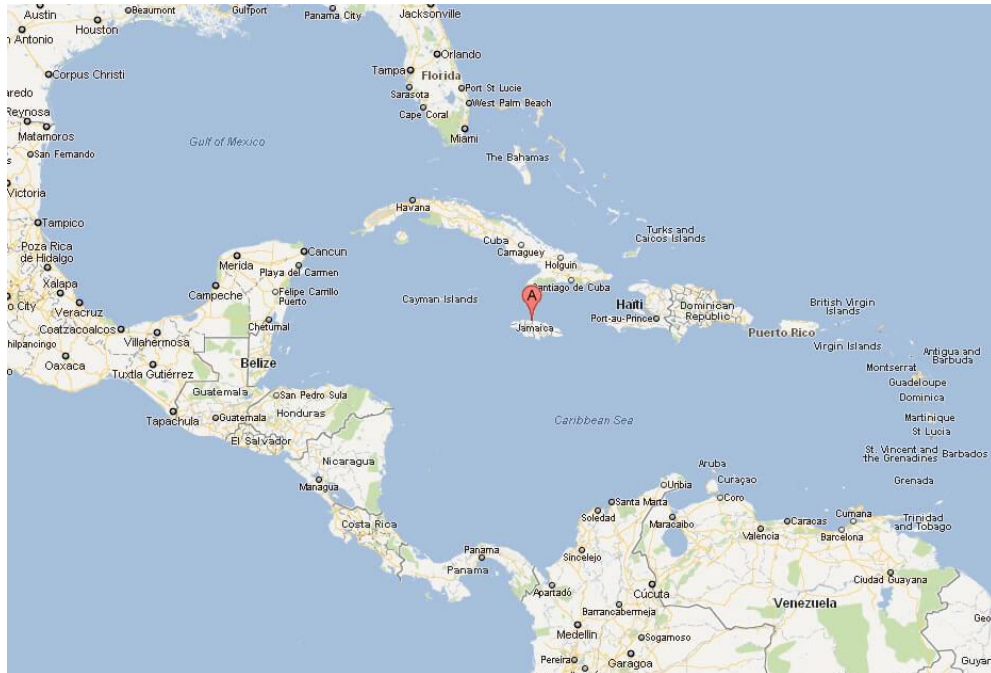




SANTA CRUZ, JAMAICA *SUMMER MISSION TRIP*



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JAMAICA

West Indies

- **Size:** 92,541 sq. mi. - group of islands more than 2,000 miles long separating the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea
- **Population:** 44,182,000
- **Countries:** 13 Independent Islands
- **Dependencies:** 18



Jamaica

- **Capital City:** Kingston
- **Parishes:** Six
- **Regional Population:** 2,818,512
- **% of Urban Population:** 55.2%
- **Location:** It is situated some 100 miles (160 km) west of Haiti, 90 miles (150 km) south of Cuba
- **Land Area:** 4,244 sq. miles
- **Average Education:** 12 of 12
- **Literacy Rate:** 88.7%
- **Average Annual Income:** \$5,190 U.S.
- **Currency:** Jamaican Dollar JMD
- **Exchange Rate:** \$1 = \$150 JMD
- **Average temperatures:** 78-91 Degrees °F
- **Elevation:** Avg. 1,000 ft. above sea level
- **Time Zone:** EST





JAMAICA MISSION TRIP

Cost is \$1800 per person

The purpose of this mission trip is to further the work of the Kingdom of God and share the love of Jesus with the people of Santa Cruz, Jamaica. Our mission effort will be under the direction of Growing Faithful Children, and we will work closely with the Santa Cruz Church of Christ.

By going on this trip, you agree to reflect the mission, values, and beliefs of Growing Faithful Children and the Santa Cruz Church of Christ. Not doing so will result in you being dismissed from the trip, incurring any additional expenses to get you home early, and all money paid will be forfeited.

Here is what your \$1800 will cover:

Airline ticket, meals in country (breakfast, lunch, and dinner), lodging, transportation, fun day experience, mission trip t-shirt, and supplies for the week.

Snacks and extra meals will be extra. For example, you will be responsible for paying for the two meals at the airport (both going to and coming home) as well as souvenir money.

JAMAICA

Jamaica is an island country of the West Indies. It is the third largest island in the Caribbean Sea, after Cuba and Hispaniola. Jamaica is about 146 miles long and varies from 22 to 51 miles wide. It is situated some 100 miles west of Haiti, 90 miles south of Cuba, and 390 miles northeast of the nearest point on the mainland, Cape Gracias a Dios, on the Caribbean coast of Central America. The national capital is Kingston.

Jamaica is covered with lots of mountains and plateaus. The highest elevations are located on the east end of the island where the Blue Mountains are. Jamaica also has numerous rivers and streams. More than half of the island's surface is covered with white limestone.

The climate of Jamaica is tropical and influenced by the sea and northeast Tradewinds. The mountains cause variations in temperature according to elevation, but there is little change from season to season. Temperatures on the coasts can reach the low 90s F and minimum temperatures in the low 40s F have been recorded on the high peaks. Average temperatures at



Kingston, at sea level, range between the high 80s F and the low 70s F. At Stony Hill, 1,400 feet above sea level, the maximum and minimum means are only a few degrees cooler.

Rains are seasonal, falling chiefly in October and May. Thunderstorms can bring heavy showers in the summer months from June to September. And the average rainfall for the island is about 82 inches per year.

THE CITY OF SANTA CRUZ

Santa Cruz is a town in Saint Elizabeth, Jamaica, one of Jamaica's largest parishes. It is located on the A2 road connecting Black River to Mandeville. Santa Cruz was just a small market village until around the 1950s when mining stimulated the growth in the area. Bauxite mining was what helped it to grow in the 1960s. St Elizabeth Technical High School was started in the 1960s and



brought a lot of students to the area to learn. Santa Cruz has a police station, courthouse, restaurants and supermarkets, along with other businesses.

Santa Cruz is considered to be a rural area with a lot of farming that takes place in this region. There is an open-air market where all types of produce (bananas, mangos, peppers, yams, peanuts, melons, peas, carrots, etc.) can be purchased fresh.

Jamaica Mission Trip 2024 Handbook

I. Preparation for the Trip

- a. **Spiritual** -Begin to pray daily about the upcoming trip, the work we will be doing, and the souls with whom we will come in contact. Pray for the Santa Cruz Church of Christ and for all the schools, administrators, and students that we have the privilege of serving during our time in Jamaica. Reflect on what Christ has done in your life and your own conversion story. Be prepared to share the Love of Jesus with everyone you meet. (I Peter 3:15) With this in mind, NO BAD LANGUAGE, NO DRINKING, NO SMOKING, and the Spirit of Jesus must be reflected in all that we do and say.
- b. **Physical** – Jamaica is HOT. Be prepared. We will have A/C in at least one vehicle and in our Guest House rooms. Everyone will be hot and uncomfortable at some point during the trip. Please be prepared to keep your complaints to yourself! We all know it is hot!
- c. **Financial** – The cost of the 2024 trip will be \$1,800. Payment can be made with cash or a check to Growing Faithful Children. A \$500 non-refundable deposit will be due no later than March 1, 2024. Once plane tickets have been purchased, we cannot give refunds! The balance of the trip cost will be due no later than May 1, 2024. More information will be given later in the handbook regarding extra expenses for which you will need to plan.
- d. **Political** – We live in a sharply divided world politically. As Christians, we should all strive for unity (Eph 4:1-6); however, we may have differing political views. This is NOT a political trip. The children that we are going to serve do not care about your political views. Any politically motivated clothing, speech, or actions will not be tolerated on this trip.
- e. **Travel Documents** – Look at your passport NOW! Make sure that it is valid for at least 6 months past the date of our trip. If not, renew it immediately.

II. Travel to and from Jamaica

- a. **Airline** – We will travel as a group. The group coordinator will schedule your flight and give you the flight details. Please make arrangements to be at the airport 3 hours prior to departure time.

- b. Passport** – Along with your deposit, please provide the trip coordinator with a color copy of your passport. Also, take a color copy with you in your carry-on luggage in case your passport gets lost or misplaced.
- c. Luggage** – Please limit your luggage to 1 large suitcase (50 lb. limit), 1 carry-on, and 1 personal bag (backpack or purse). You may also be asked to be responsible for a second suitcase that has been packed with items for the trip. Your carry-on bag should include at least 1 change of clothes and your personal hygiene items in case our luggage is delayed. If your suitcase or carry-on does not meet airline guidelines, then YOU will be responsible for any extra fees charged by the airline.
- d. Customs and Immigration** – As you leave the airplane make your way to immigration. (There will be signs and people directing you). Have your passport and immigration document (provided on the plane) ready. DO NOT have your cell phone out taking pictures. Be courteous and answer the questions as best as you can. The address for our stay in Jamaica will be provided to you. After immigration, make your way to the luggage pick-up. Please stay in the luggage area until all the luggage has been found and the group is all together. We will then proceed through customs as a group. As you exit customs, there will be a number of taxi drivers and luggage carriers trying to assist you for pay. Please be polite and let them know that you do not need assistance and that we have transportation waiting. DO NOT leave the pick-up area of the airport without the group!
- e. Security** – If you are stopped and searched, please do not panic. Answer the questions fully and give them your fullest cooperation. DO NOT be sarcastic or playful in any way. Be serious and calm, and make sure someone knows that you have been detained so you do not get left behind.
- f. Non-Compliance** – Please visit Delta.com and Travel.state.gov for current travel advisories and lists of approved items that can be taken onto airlines and into Jamaica. If you are found to be in possession of any contraband items in your luggage, you will be left to deal with the consequences on your own! Please be aware that if you are detained or asked to leave Jamaica because of your own actions, the trip will continue without you!
- g. Information for Immigration:**

 - i.** Length of Stay:
 - ii.** Point of Embarkation: Atlanta, Georgia
 - iii.** Flight Number:
 - iv.** Airline:

- v. Address while in Jamaica: Chisholm Retreat, Longwood District, Santa Cruz PO, St. Elizabeth Jamaica West Indies: (876) 966-4609
- vi. Purpose of visit:

- h. **Medical** – Each trip will have a medical professional. Attached to the end of this handbook is a medical form that lists any allergies, medical conditions, and prescription drugs that you are taking. This form is to be filled out completely and given to the trip coordinator. This information will be given to the medical professional and be kept strictly confidential.
- i. **Covid 19** – In conjunction with healthcare professionals, we are monitoring the COVID situation as we make preparations for the upcoming trip. **With the possibility of exposure to Covid and quarantine, we will not allow any minors to go on the trip without a parent, guardian, or youth minister with them.** You will be expected to conform to all state, local, and federal rules and laws regarding Covid-19 at all times.
- j. **Insurance** – Please be careful and do not get hurt while in Jamaica! Take your insurance card and a color copy with you. Medical transportation insurance is always a good idea and can be purchased at MedjetAssist.com for about \$100 for a short trip.
- k. **Travel Home** – Again, we will travel to the airport and home as a group. Please wear your mission trip T-shirts for the trip home. Make sure your passport is in your carry-on bag.

III. What to Expect When We Get There

- a. **In Country Travel** – We will go everywhere as a group. NO EXCEPTIONS. We will travel in vans (buses). The roads are bumpy and windy around the mountains, so if you get car sick, please let someone know so we can make arrangements for you to be in a van with A/C. No one other than the assigned drivers will be allowed to drive the vans. Each night please remove any trash from the vans as you exit to the guest house.
- b. **Lodging** – We will be staying at the Chisholm Retreat Guest House. It is a very nice Guest House with A/C in all the rooms. It is very secure at night and quite safe. Once we are in for the night and the gates have been locked, no one is allowed to leave the premises. This is not only a Guest House; it is the home of the Chisholm family. Please keep the noise to a minimum, clean up behind yourself, be polite, and treat the Chisholm family and their home with respect. The contact for the Guest House is Duncan Chisholm (876) 505-6760.

- i. **What to Take** – The Guest House will provide sheets, towels, washcloths, and toilet paper. Please take your own personal hygiene items.
- ii. **Water and A/C** – The water will likely be cold to lukewarm for showering. The A/C can also be unreliable. Please be patient and understanding. If there is a problem with your room please let Duncan or your trip coordinator know and the problem will be addressed. Complaining will be IGNORED!
- iii. **Room Assignments** – Room assignments will be made by the trip coordinator. Every effort will be made to pair married couples together, but everyone cannot be accommodated. ANY ROOM CHANGES must be approved by the trip coordinator.
- iv. **Fraternizing** – Boys should not be in girls' rooms and vice versa. There is to be absolutely NO display of affection between unmarried men and women. We want to maintain the highest level of purity and never leave anyone with the wrong impression.

c. Clothing

- 1. **Shorts** – Shorts may be worn to the primary schools, but not to any of the high schools. Shorts cannot be gym shorts and must reach the knee in men and women. Gym shorts are ONLY allowed at the guest house and on travel days and they must be longer style and not revealing in any way!
- 2. **Shirts** – Shirts must cover the waist and the shoulders. NO bare midriff or off-the-shoulder shirts should be worn.
- 3. **Church and VBS** – Long pants (not jeans) should be worn by men and dresses should be worn by women. Dresses must be of appropriate length (mid-calf to ankle length). Men who are speaking at church must wear a tie.
- 4. **Construction** – Please take some clothes for construction projects that can get dirty or covered in paint. The same etiquette rules apply to work clothes as above. Men cannot remove shirts during work projects.
- 5. **Shoes** – All shoes worn should be closed-toe. Sandals and flip-flops will only be allowed for travel or fun days or while at the Guest House.
- 6. **Clothing Restrictions: **Read Carefully****

No gym shorts (other than those noted above), bikinis, tank tops, sleeveless shirts, spaghetti straps, low-cut blouses, skirts above the knee, spandex, leggings, or form-fitting clothes of any kind. No white T-shirts as stand-alone attire. No shirts with political slogans, profanity or that

advertise alcohol, cigarettes, or any other vice. Swimsuits must be covered by shorts and t-shirts at all times. Modesty will be enforced.

- d. Expenses** – We will assist you in changing US dollars for J (Jamaican dollars) once we reach Santa Cruz. Please provide the trip coordinator with the money that you would like to exchange in a sealed envelope with your name on it. The current exchange rate is \$1 US to J\$150. Each day we will go by the store where you can purchase local foods, drinks, and any personal products that you need. You will also need money for any souvenir shopping that you want to do as well as any meals during travel at the airports. We suggest at least \$100 US for the trip. Make sure to take small denomination bills (\$1, \$5, \$10) for exchange and for souvenir shopping.
- e. Panhandling** – You WILL be asked for money. Politely refuse. DO NOT give anyone money on the street.
- f. Food/Drink** – Hydrate, hydrate, hydrate!! Water will be provided, so drink lots. Soft drinks and juices can be purchased but please drink several bottles of water each day. We will eat an “American Style” breakfast each morning and you will be able to purchase snacks during the day. Lunch and Dinner will be provided each day, but the times may vary. Please take any snacks from home that you would like and pack each morning as if you won’t get to eat until late at night. DO NOT WASTE FOOD. Each meal that we have would feed a Jamaican family for days. So, take what you want but eat what you take. If you have leftovers let someone know and we will package them for our Jamaican friends. If you have specific dietary needs, please let the trip coordinator know and bring as much of your own food as possible.
- g. Communication Home** - Contact your cellular provider for fees associated with making and receiving calls while in Jamaica. There will be WIFI available at the Guest House.
- h. Stay with the Group** – No one is allowed to walk alone while in Jamaica. Always go in groups and always have at least 1 male per group. DO NOT leave the group, DO NOT go anywhere alone, and DO NOT leave the church building or the school where we are working without specific permission from your group leader.

Jamaica Mission Trip Signature Form 2024

Name: _____ Nickname: _____

Address: _____

_____ Cell Phone: _____

Home Church: _____ Phone Number: _____

Church Address: _____

Church Mission Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____

Checklist to enclose:

- ___ Signature Form – Signed and dated
- ___ Medical Form – Signed and dated
- ___ Color Copy of Passport
- ___ \$500 Non-Refundable Deposit

I have read the Mission Trip Handbook thoroughly. I understand that it is a privilege to be included in this trip, and I will abide by the trip's rules and the trip coordinators' direction. I understand that if I do not abide by the rules, I may be asked to leave the trip early and return to America at my own expense. I agree that I will make all payments on time and that my \$500 trip deposit is non-refundable. I agree that I will abide by the dress code. I agree to be a good example and show the Love of Christ to everyone with whom I come into contact.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

****Signed form and checklist items due March 1, 2024.**

Hold Harmless Agreement

I understand that a mission trip is a potentially hazardous activity, and I assume all risks and hazards incidental to such participation. I also recognize the difficulties and challenges involved in this activity and that I am sufficiently physically and psychologically fit to participate and have not been advised otherwise by a physician. I agree to indemnify and hold harmless Growing Faithful Children, its employees, and personnel from any and all claims, causes of action, and liability for injuries or damages which may arise as a result of participating in this mission trip, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney's fees and the costs and disbursements of any legal actions. I do hereby waive, relinquish, release, discharge, and hold Growing Faithful Children harmless from any and all liabilities, for any physical or mental injury or aggravation of any pre-existing illness, handicap, and death, loss of enjoyment, or any other harm or loss of nature which may be sustained by myself while participating in this mission trip. The scope of this agreement extends to any actions taken by Growing Faithful Children, its employees, personnel, and volunteers in responding to any emergency and/or medical situation or event. I further agree that they may act in an emergency as best fits the situation in the event an emergency contact cannot be timely reached. I accept full and sole responsibility for any damage I may cause through negligence and/or malice, including damages or injuries caused during this mission trip.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Medical Form

Name: _____ DOB: _____

___ I Have NO medical needs, allergies or prescription medications that the medical professional needs to be aware of.

___ I have the following medical conditions that the medical professional should be aware of

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

___ I have the following allergies.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

___ I am currently taking the following prescription medication.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Signature: _____ Date: _____